



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

TB

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/843,257 | 04/25/2001 | David Robert Dudek | TS9246 (US) | 9795 |

7590

08/12/2003

Yukiko Iwata
Shell Oil Company
Legal - Intellectual Property
P.O. Box 2463
Houston, TX 77252-2463

EXAMINER

NASH, BRIAN D

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
|----------|--------------|

3721

8

DATE MAILED: 08/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/843,257

Applicant(s)

DUDEK ET AL.

Examiner

Brian D Nash

Art Unit

3721

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4. 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 3721

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to applicant's election received 1 July 2003. Examiner acknowledges election of claims 1-17 and cancellation of claims 18-23. The pending claims in the application are now 1-17.

Election/Restrictions

2. Applicant's election of Group I, claims 1-17 in Paper No. 7 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Priority

3. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1(i), terminology "and/or" is indefinite and requires correction.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-2 and 4-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,996,316 to Kirschner in view of Official Notice. Kirschner discloses the invention substantially as claimed including a system and method for order packing including (i) providing a product at a manufacturing site, (ii) filling a bulk container with a beverage, (iii) placing bulk container onto a pallet, and (iv) transporting pallet to customer site and transporting pallet to a distributor prior to customer site (see Fig. 9). Kirschner does not specifically show removing the bulk container from a pallet, the transfer of product from a bulk container into an individual storage container for retail to the consumer, the beverage as a concentrated form so that the product may be reconstituted later, or the use of a vending machine.

Official Notice is taken that both the concept and system for removing bulk containers from palletized loads, transfer of a product from a bulk container to an individual storage container for consumer use, transfer of product in a concentrated form for the purpose of reduced weight and volume, and incorporation of a vending machine at the consumer site are all well known and expected in the art. Furthermore, in the specific case of Kirschner, it is well known to package and ship soft drinks in concentrated "syrup" form to be reconstituted with carbonated water at the consumer site via an automated vending machine or at a restaurant soda fountain.

Art Unit: 3721

It is an obvious extension of the system and method disclosed by Kirschner as well as a highly used system and method for products such as soft drinks, coffee, and other foodstuffs.

Regarding claim 13, Kirschner does not disclose a consumer product being a household detergent. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to substitute a household detergent product, e.g. laundry detergents used in vending machines at Laundromats, since the applicant has not disclosed that a household detergent in lieu of a beverage product solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with either product.

8. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,996,316 to Kirschner in view of Official Notice as applied to claims 1-2 and 4-17 above, and further in view of the admitted prior art. As discussed above in paragraph 7 of this office action, Kirschner discloses the invention substantially as claimed; however, a dry break coupling system is not disclosed. Applicant's specification (page 3, lines 15-18) discloses that dry break coupling systems are well known in the art.

In view of the admitted prior art, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have used a dry break coupling system in the product delivery system of Kirschner for the purpose of ensuring product integrity and minimizing the potential for product counterfeiting.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Nash whose telephone number is (703) 305-4959. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Art Unit: 3721

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi I. Rada can be reached at (703) 308-2187.

The fax numbers for this Group are:

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Before Final | 703-872-9302 |
| After Final | 703-872-9303 |
| Customer Service | 703-872-9301 |

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

Brian D. Nash
4 August 2003



Rinaldi I. Rada
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700